GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:7403
ANSWERED ON:15.05.2002
COMMUNICATION NETWORK
YEMPARALA VENKATESWARA RAO

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether BSNL proposes to spend about Rs. 1500 crores for village Panchayats telecom works ;

(b) if so, the number of Panchayats to be covered during the current year, State-wise;

(c) the amount proposed to be spent, State-wise; and

(d) the manner in which this is likely to enhance the village communication network?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPA SIKDAR)

(a) No, Sir.

(b) BSNL plans to provide telecom facilities in 12007 Panchayats during the current year. State-wise details are given in the Annexure. 9916 Gram Panchayats are to be covered by Private Basic Service Operators(PBSOs).

(c) & (d): No separate funds have been provided state-wise for providing VPTs in Panchayats. The existing Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) equipment is proposed to be utilised to provide telecom facilities in Gram Panchayats. However, the funds to the tune of Rs. 400 crore are required to provide about 18,045 satellite telephones in remote and isolated villages of the country including those Panchayat villages which can not be covered by any terrestrial technology. With the induction of WLL equipment in the rural areas, it would be possible to provide telephone connections in areas far away from telephone exchanges also.

ANNEXURE

PANCHAYATS TO BE COVERED DURING CURRENT YEAR

CIRCLE	PANCHAYATS TO BE COVERED BY BSNL	PANCHAYATS TO BE COVERED BY PBSOs
ANDHRA PRADESH	0	1273
ASSAM	391	0
BIHAR	587	0
CHHATTISGARH	971	1903
GUJRAT	0	968
HIMACHAL PRADESH	103	0
JAMMU & KASHMIR	560	0
JHARKHAND	882	0
KARNATAKA	2	0
MADHYA PRADESH	0	3209
MAHARASHTRA	0	2020
NORTH EAST-I	291	0
NORTH EAST -II	648	0
ORISSA	244	0
RAJASTHAN	0	543
UTTAR PRADESH (EAST)	5370	0
UTTARANCHAL	1958	0
TOTAL	12007	9916